

# ARCHITECTURE IN RUINS



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A Visitors + Archaeological-Research Centre





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In memory of and dedicated to my Oupa Len. . .

+

*“Experience is the act of living and experience is the arena in which adult learning occurs. The crucial question becomes: what kind of experiences do we want? If we want to learn a great deal or have our perspectives and beliefs challenged, we will aim for new, different and demanding situations. Can we deliberately construct our own learning experiences aimed at achieving what is most important to us? We can, and when we do that, ‘the act of living’ becomes the product of our own creativity.” (Morris, 2002:31)*





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a place of memory, celebration, opportunity & future



West Fort in its surrounding context

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of  
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**+** **ABSTRACT**

This dissertation investigates the relationship of the Fortifications in Pretoria to the public. The architectural problem of making the public aware of these Fortifications is investigated and responded to by designing a Visitors centre, to draw the public to the Fort, by creating an experience of moving through the landscape.

This experience orientates the visitor visually towards various other iconic monuments, by symbolically turning the visitor into a camera, capturing views and experiences for himself.

The program also provides facilities for Archaeological research which will be done on various other Fortification ruins and archaeological sites in Pretoria. The visitors experience and interaction with the landscape and the vision of the Fort as artefact contributes to the visitors being made aware of the gradual deterioration of the Fortifications in the city to ruins.

The Fortifications themselves are monumental ruins, but by adding to them yet still respecting their heritage qualities, makes this a sensitive and respectful response to an important problem of how to preserve historical artefacts and at the same time utilising them.

West Fort will become the catalyst for public awareness and experience to the other Fortifications within the city context.



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